



Regional exchange on IWRM experiences in the
Mekong River Basin
Vientiane capital, Oct 15-17, 2014

STATUS OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN LAO PDR

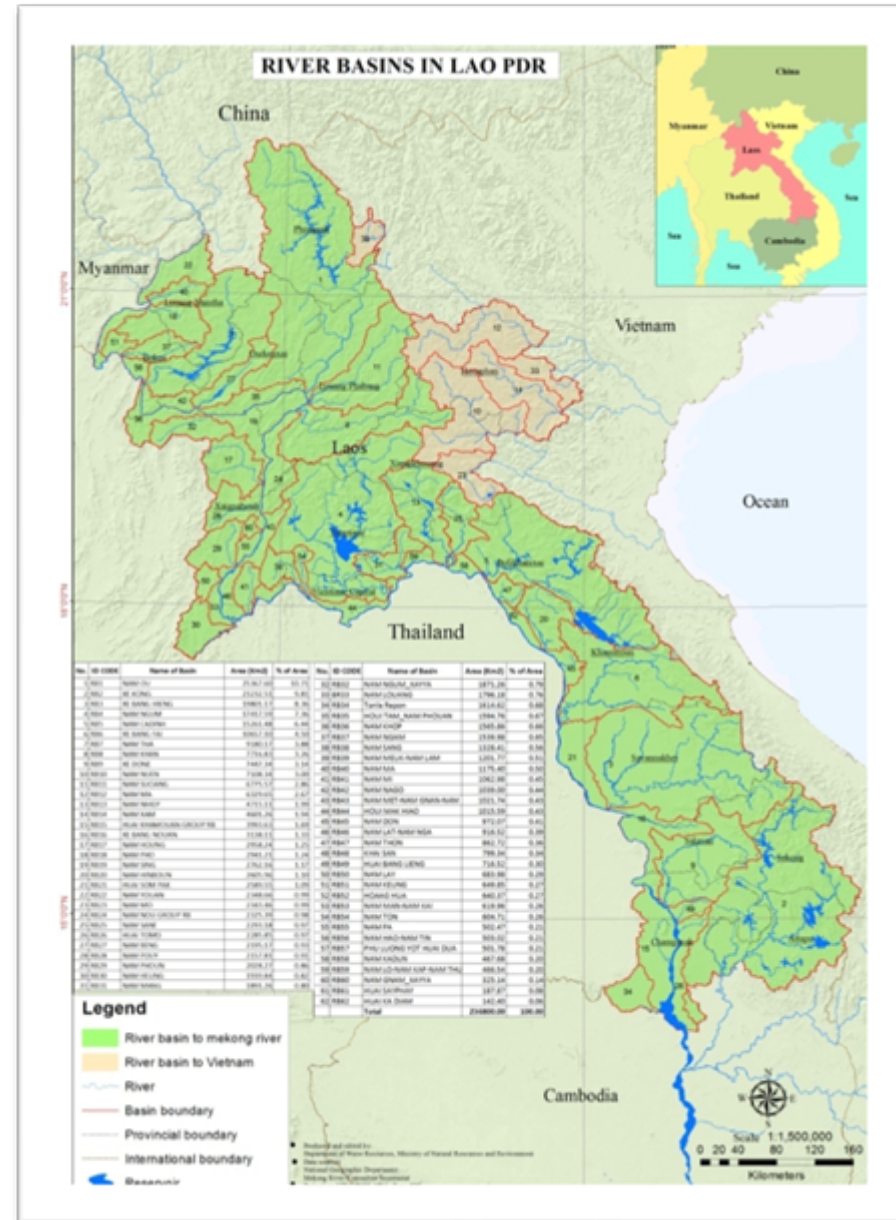
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I. Introduction

Lao PDR has abundance by water resources, tributaries, and number of 62 sub-river basins significantly situated in the country territory.

IWRM in Lao PDR: River basin plan is an essential tool to fulfil the mission of IWRM nationwide.

The Government is to ensure the IWRM at priority basin and sub-basin levels nationwide and Priority Projects into Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Development.



II. Legislations and Principal Basics

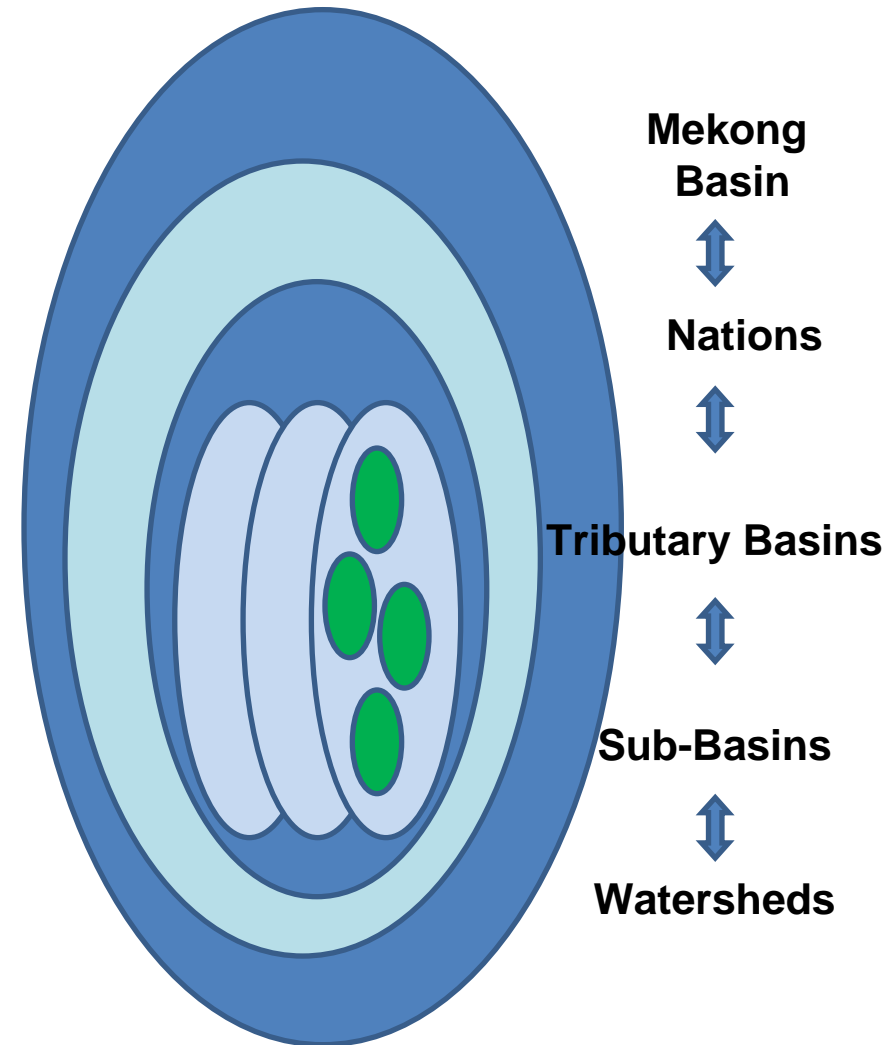
A. Regulations of direct relevance to the planning process:

Important elements for river basin management are the Seventh Five - Year National Socio - Economic Development Plan (2011-2015), the Law on Water and Water Resources of 1996 and the Prime Minister Decree of 2001 on Implementation of the Law of on Water and Water Resources and other related regulations.

B. Bottom-up and Top-down of to the planning process:

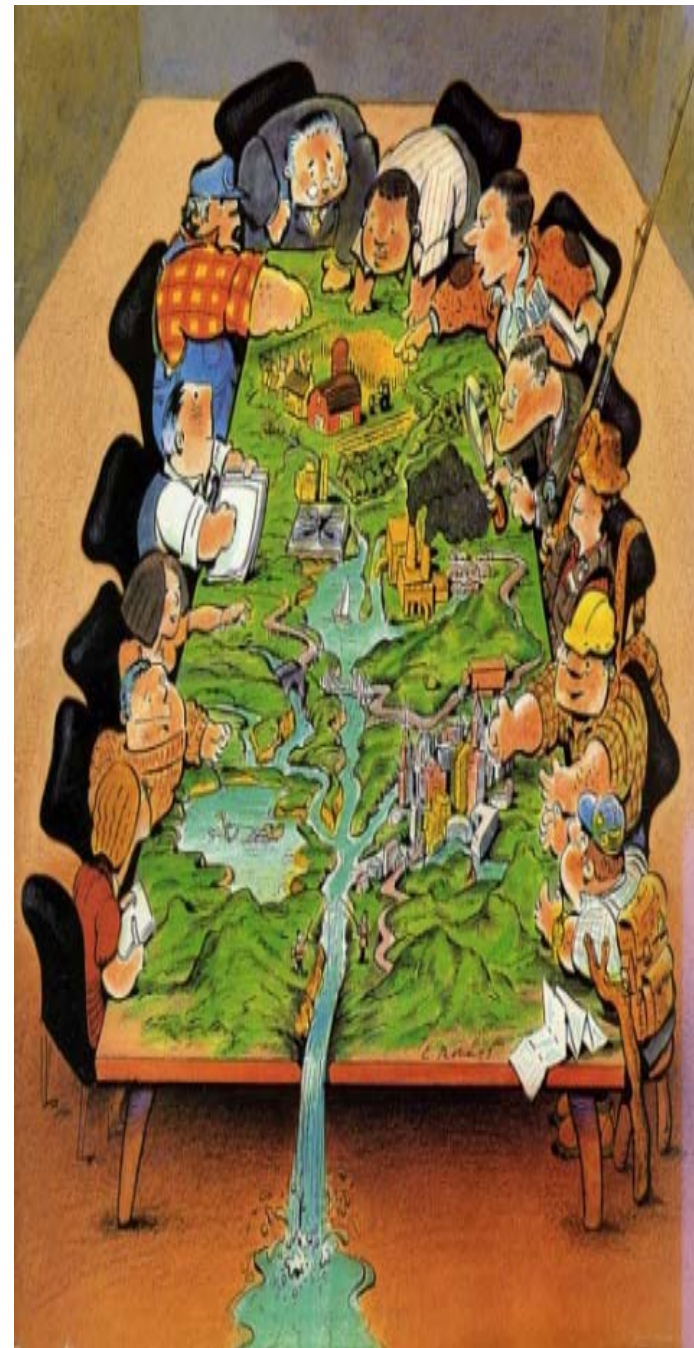
The larger river basin management mechanism will need to include a sub-mechanism that gathers information at the ground level, such as facts, views, and expectations, and feed it into the river basin management planning process.

It is important that the district and provincial development plans will be part of the planning initial data. This sub-mechanism would support the bottom up aspect of the planning approach.



The top-down element comes from the reality of the government's national policies for socio-economic development and sector specific development plans, including the exploitation of natural resources and management of the environment.

The policy and strategy goals and the legal and regulatory framework constitute the main part of the top-down aspect of the planning approach.



C. The River Basin Management Planning process:

The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management requires extensively collaboration of the stakeholders in the management of the basins; and will have to be a joint effort by a large number of government units, private sector and civil society groups and communities operating in a variety of administrative territorial areas and sectors.

- (i) Established a strategy for data collection, technical research and analysis in the basin,
- (ii) Stakeholders activity proposals have to be prioritized, in order to clarify that the planning process has to deal with budget, time and human resources scarcity
- (iii) stakeholders participatory activities are not just data collection activities. It is important to include participatory activities during all the planning process to follow up their opinions and proposals.

III. Methods and Tools for River Basin Management

DWR is the core coordination agency which supporting of PoNRE, DoNRE and Village Authorities, Village volunteers for this implementation activities including DWR's seven tasks of water resources are described below:

1. Planning and co-operation
2. Legislation and regulation
3. River-basin management (wetland, flood and drought)
4. Ground water management
5. Surface-ground water quality management
6. Water resources information
7. Capacity building and awareness campaign.



Core Activities in the RBMP preparation process

1. To determine the level of management of the studied basin. The complexity, the area, the population and other circumstances will determine the level of management: National, Basin, Province or District level.
2. To present a recommended process for preparation of a plan for the management of the River Basin Plan. The process will be supported in the National Guidelines and in the experience in the pilot basins in Lao PDR for developing the IWRM working mechanisms and processes.

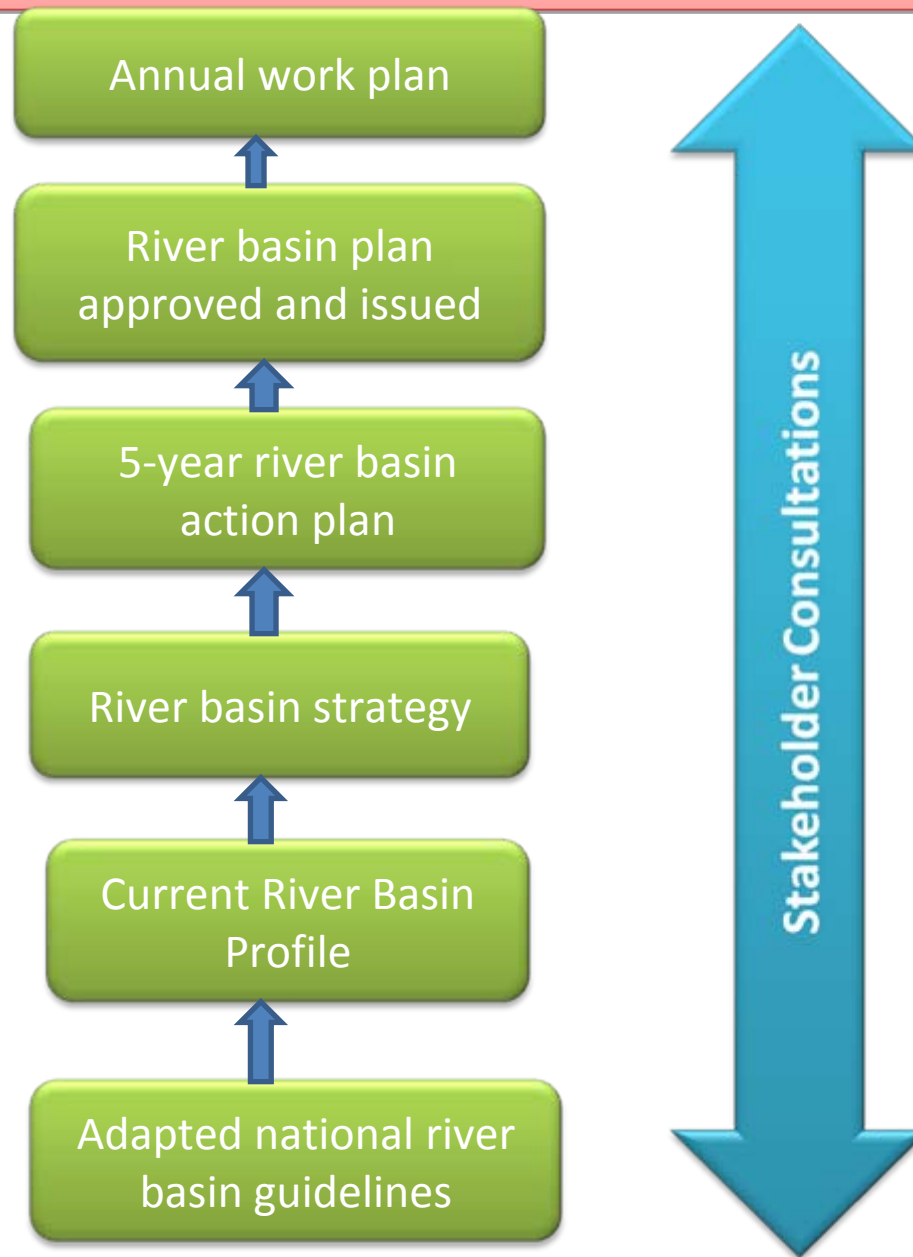
Core Activities in the RBMP preparation process (Cont')

3. Technical Working Group that will be a key player during the planning process cooperating to collect information, establishing planning priorities or working on the different activities proposed by the River Basin Plan. Public officers at provincial and district level, some key private developers (hydropower, mining,...) and stakeholders (irrigation, fishermen associations, women unions) will be part of it.
4. Stakeholder's involvement strategy that will combine in parallel during all the planning process a top-down and bottom-up approach.

Core Activities in the RBMP preparation process (Cont')

5. Updating profile of the basin produce combining the collection of existing data, the results of the first stakeholders participatory workshops, the first results of the Technical Working Group activities and additional technical studies (modelling, GIS, water pollution inventory,...). This document will be useful to define the main challenges of the basin.
6. Formulate a strategic vision for the basin water resources. Scenario planning techniques will help to understand to all the stakeholders the strategic options available for the basin incorporating IWRM principles.
7. Develop a 5-Yr Management Action Plan for achieving the strategic targets.

River Basin Planning in Lao PDR



Developed working mechanism process and main activities:

- Data collection/river-basin assessment, sub-river basin and other watersheds, statistical data, GIS, ground truthing river basins.
- Consult among public institutions and developer concerns,
- Coordinate among development projects and other business within river- basins
- Participatory idea mobilization among public sectors, private, communities...
- Coordinate with local authorities, field data collection, data enhancement, data comparison between provinces and districts situated in the river-basins,
- Gap analysis of river-basin information and proposed to add more details study.
- Improvement report on river basin profiles,
- Budget planning and break down of each activities for the river-basin management processes.

Thank you for your kind attentions

